

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 07595 251558 Z

45

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 PM-07 NSC-10

NSCE-00 L-03 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

NASA-04 GAC-01 COME-00 EB-11 OTP-02 DODE-00 RSR-01

MC-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 /122 W

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O R 251550 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5341

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07595

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, GW, XT

SUBJECT: SPACELAB - US/ EUROPEAN AGREEMENT

REF: A. ROME 4366; B. STATE A-4155

1. SUMMARY. FRG OFFICIALS CONFIRMED SUBSTANCE REF A BUT DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE SITUATION AS BAD AS THAT IMPLIED BY TRELLA'S COMMENTS. IN FRG VIEW NEGOTIATION OF US/ EUROPEAN AGREEMENT FOR SPACELAB IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY AND NORMALLY TOWARD " NEXT ROUND" OF DISCUSSIONS. THEY HOPE POINTS TO BE PRESENTED TO USG NEXT WEEK IN AIDE MEMOIRE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO REPORT OF FRG OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED ESRO PLANNING BOARD MEETING ON MAY 23 THREE HOURS DID NOT RPT NOT PERMIT DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF EVERY POINT. FRG OFFICIAL RECALLED THAT FRENCH HAD REMAINED SILENT DURING MAY 3-4 MEETING. DURING BOARD MEETING FRENCH TALKED FOR " FIRST TIME", WHICH FRG

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PAGE 02 BONN 07595 251558 Z

BELIEVED "GOOD SIGN" OF INTEREST. FRENCH ARE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT US GUARANTEES OF LAUNCH SERVICES. FRG FONOFF REPS BELIEVE FRENCH WILL NOT RPT NOT SIGN AGREEMENT BETWEEN USG AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS UNLESS THERE IS SOME IMPROVEMENT IN PRESENT USG POLICY RE LAUNCH GUARANTEES.

3. IN FRG VIEW, POSSIBLE ESC MEETING IN MID- JULY IS NOT RPT NOT DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO US- EUROPEAN COOPERATION. SEVERAL COUNTRIES FAVOR ESC MEETING FOR VARIOUS REASONS. FRENCH WISH SEEK MORE EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR L3 S PROJECT. UK WISHES EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN THEIR GTS SATELLITE WHICH WOULD FREE FUNDS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN SPACELAB PROGRAM. FRG ITSELF IS RELUCTANT HAVE ESC MEETING WHICH MIGHT, NEVERTHELESS, PROVE TROUBLESOME IN SPACELAB CONTEXT.

4. ESRO PLANNING BOARD FELT THERE WERE SOME POINTS OF US/ EUROPEAN SPACELAB AGREEMENT WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER WITH USG. ACCORDINGLY, AN AIDE MEMOIRE HAS BEEN DRAFTED FOR CLEARANCE BY PARTICIPATING EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ON MAY 28/29. FRG ASSUMES THIS AIDE MEMOIRE (AM) WILL BE PRESENTED BY AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON LATER IN WEEK OF MAY 28.

5. FRG OFFICIALS EXPRESSED BELIEF MOST POINTS MADE IN AM WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG. ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS PROPOSED WHICH COULD BEGIN SOON AFTER WHITSUN (I. E. ABOUT JUNE L2). ACCORDING TO FRG OFFICIALS THESE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED AT SAME LEVEL AS FOR MAY 3-4 MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

6. FRG OFFICIALS STRONGLY URGED EMBASSY SCIENCE ATTACHE NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPT TO REPORT DETAILS OF AM CONTENT WHICH IS STILL BEING DRAFTED BY ESRO SECRETARIAT AND SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT BY PARTICIPATING NATIONS BEFORE PRESENTATION TO USG POSSIBLY NEXT WEEK. HOWEVER, THREE MAJOR POINTS SEEMED EMERGE FROM COMMENTS BY FRG OFFICIALS.

A. AMENDMENT TO DRAFT AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE FIRM US COMMITMENT TO LAUNCH SPACELABS (I. E. NOT RPT NOT EXTENDED TO COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES) WITHOUT ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BONN 07595 251558 Z

LIMITING REFERENCE TO " US POLICIES". THIS AMENDMENT APPARENTLY REQUIRED TO MEET FRENCH POSITION.

B. AMENDMENT TO " DURATION" CLAUSE TO PROVIDE FOR THREE- YEAR EXTENSION UNLESS AGREEMENT DENOUNCED, AND FOR POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER EXTENSIONS.

C. AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR BETTER US- EUROPEAN CONSULATIONS ABOUT USE OF LABORATORY.

HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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